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SUBJECT: OBAMA SPEECH IN CAIRO: INDIA MEDIA REPORT III  
(CONTINUED)

SUMMARY: This is the third report on Indian media reaction to President Obama's Cairo address to the Muslim world (previous reports sent June 5 and 8). Two weeks after the President's speech in Cairo coverage was sporadic and the range of opinion was wide -- from jibes that the President is trying to play God, to fawning praise and optimism, to downright pessimism that America's relations with the Muslim world are irreparable. One newspaper even saw a cause for concern for India, saying that the U.S. may now raise the Kashmir issue to appease the Muslim world, particularly Pakistan. Generally acknowledging President Obama's gesture of goodwill, a majority of the editorialists asked, "What next?" They urged the President to "walk the talk" if the objectives of his speech were to be realized. Following are notable reactions published in the Urdu press read among some Indian Muslims (section A) and the English and vernacular press (section B) after June 8. END SUMMARY.

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SECTION A  
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11. "OBAMA'S EFFORTS," editorial in June 8 right-of-center Urdu daily, MUNSIF: "Obama cannot be held responsible for the atrocities perpetrated by Bush, but it is a fact that massacre and bloodshed in Afghanistan and Iraq were committed by none other than Obama's predecessor. To what extent can Obama ensure that America is ready to open a new chapter of friendship

and harmony with the Islamic world? He can make a breakthrough provided he prefers valor over precaution."

¶2. "PREACHING IS OVER, NOW IT IS TIME TO PRACTICE," op-ed article in June 9 right-of-center Urdu daily, RASHTRIYA SAHARA: "The basic reason for tension prevailing between the U.S. and the Muslim world is the former's pro-Israel policy. Incursions into Iraq and Afghanistan further fuelled the fire. He has delivered a courageous speech. But the pertinent question is whether mere words are enough to heal the wounds?"

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SECTION B  
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¶3. "OBAMA TRYING TO BECOME SAVIOR OF THE WORLD," op-ed in June 8 right-of-center Hindi daily, AMAR UJALA: "President Obama is trying to become the savior of the world, projecting himself as a messiah. The United States, before advising others, should know that the Israel-Arab conflict, terrorism in Pakistan and even Al-Qaida are its own creations."

¶4. "DOES THIS NEW LANGUAGE SPEAK OF NEW POSSIBILITIES?" editorial in June 11 independent Bengali daily, ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA: "The importance of President Obama's Cairo remarks is certainly different since he wants to dissociate himself from his predecessor. He

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does not offer an immediate solution to any problem but his objective is to show respect to the Arab and Muslim world. The beginning was great. What next?"

¶5. "OBAMA'S NEW OUTLOOK," op-ed in June 10 Hindi daily, DAINIK JAGRAN: "President Obama's Cairo speech had a positive effect at the international level. At the same time, however, there is a cause for concern for India. The U.S. can raise the Kashmir issue anytime to appease the Muslim world, particularly Pakistan. We should be extremely careful and strengthen the Indian lobby in America to counter this."

¶6. "WHAT KIND OF ISLAM DOES OBAMA IMPLY?" op-ed in June 15 centrist Marathi daily, SAKAAL: "Obama's politics are transparent and his oratory inspiring. But his definition of Islam in his Cairo speech needs scrutiny. In his bid to win over the Muslim world, President Obama seems to have glorified Islam a bit too loudly. Does he want us to forget that jihad and the Taliban are also part of Islam? For him, the only negativism in Islam is basically the opposition to Western countries like the United States. But is that the only problem with Islam, Mr. Obama?"

¶7. "A NOVEL CALL FROM OBAMA'S IN CAIRO," editorial in June 10 Guwahati Assamese left-of-center AMAR ASOM: "Obama's call seems more honest and sincere compared to other former U.S. presidents' rather proud and arrogant overtures. It is in many ways a revolutionary move."  
BURLEIGH